



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

# Staff News

*Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole*

[www.cdcr.ca.gov](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov)

October 3, 2005

## Community Re-Entry Project Initiated by PIA in San Diego



*Prison Industry Authority General Manager Matt Powers conducts a press conference announcing a collaboration with the San Diego community to enhance the integration of ex-offenders into the local workforce. Please see story on page 7.*

## CDCR Institutions, Boards Rally with Relief Effort in Wake of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita

The ongoing devastation suffered by the Gulf states during September sparked an unprecedented response by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation employees, the inmates and wards they oversee, as well as the various boards and divisions that make up the re-organized CDCR.

A sizeable effort of donations, in-kind contributions, and fundraising by the various entities within CDCR continues through October. As a result, the following efforts are a snapshot in time. A cumulative total is expected to be announced in a follow up article in **Staff News**.

The effort by correctional staff, as well as friends and family toward this end, was applauded by CDCR Secretary **Roderick Q. Hickman**.

"I never doubted the genuine compassion, concern and humanity of CDCR employees," Secretary Hickman said. "I am overwhelmed, impressed and proud of the compassionate people who work in this department. Their innovation, eagerness and willingness to help those most in need – the victims of this tragedy – is an example of why we have the best employees in state government."

Hickman noted that the relief efforts weren't only limited to staff, as thousands of inmates and wards followed the lead of staff and pitched in with donations and support.

Hickman noted that the effort by California correctional employees to enhance safety

*(Please see Katrina, Page 4)*

## Corrections Awards Presented at Statewide Parole, Probation Conference

### *12 Employees Honored for Distinguished Service, Outstanding Achievement*

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Chief Deputy Secretary for the Division of Juvenile Justice **Bernard Warner** and CDCR Director of Adult Parole **Jim L'Etoile** presented awards on Sept. 15 to several employees at the Annual Training Conference for the California Probation, Parole, and Correctional Association.

Warner presented one Distinguished Service Award and one Victim Services Award, along

with outstanding achievement presentations to six current or former juvenile court wards.

L'Etoile presented one Parole Administrator of the Year, three Parole Unit Supervisor of the Year awards, and one Parole Agent of the Year Award.

CDCR, in cooperation with CPPCA, annually recognizes exemplary individuals who provide a service to California in delinquency prevention and

*(Please see CPPCA, Page 6)*

# CCWF Prison Fire Department Aids in Aircraft Search, Rescue Mission

By Kevin Kostecky

AA/PIO

Central California Women's Facility

When the Fire Department at Central California Women's Facility near Chowchilla received a 911 call on Sept. 19 about a downed aircraft, staff immediately knew it was something out of the ordinary.

Well trained and always ready, CCWF firefighters started to scramble. They immediately responded to the reported crash site at Road 19 ½ and Avenue 26 here—only to find nothing.

"Our fire crew along with crews from the city of Chowchilla and Madera County searched the entire area," said Fire Chief **Robert Blankinship**. "We began a search pattern for the downed aircraft with a military C-130 circling overhead to help us locate the position of the downed aircraft."

Prison and local search and rescue workers continued to look for the wreckage, when Chief Blankinship discovered the 1947 Avian, light civilian airplane at the head of a vineyard, adjacent to a wide dirt road—



*Emergency personnel inspect the wreckage of the plane for less obvious damage after the injured pilot was safely removed by CCWF firefighters.*

about five miles from where the dispatcher reported the crash site to be located. The frame was damaged and one wingtip had been sheared off, but nothing had caught fire.

Chief Blankinship reported the correct location and, using his many years of experience in handling aircraft emergencies, directed the county fire crew to stage for an assessment of the crash scene. They quickly found the pilot (and sole occupant of the aircraft) standing beside the downed plane, who appeared uninjured.

"We performed an initial medical assessment due to his complaint of back pain," said Chief Blankinship, "but he declined medical treatment. We turned our attention to assessing the aircraft and shut down all power to reduce the likelihood of fire."

Additional fire and rescue crews responded and the prison's fire department personnel left the scene after about 40 minutes of their dispatch. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Traffic Safety Board are investigating the cause of the crash.

## 2006 Open Enrollment Runs Sept. 15 -- Oct. 15

For helpful information regarding the 2006 Open Enrollment, please watch for the following:

- 2006 Health Plan Statement was mailed out by PERS with postcard for requesting your own Open Enrollment package.
- A PML memorandum to be distributed via E-Mail with State Share, Flex-Elect, Dental, and Vision information for 2006.

All Open Enrollment booklets

will be available for view online after Sept. 15, by accessing the CalPERS web at: [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) or calling 1-888-225-7377.

- Please make sure you follow the proper procedures to ensure timely enrollment:

1. Employees may cancel Dental enrollment at any time by completing a STD. 692 and submitting it to their Personnel Office. These employees may not re-enroll in a dental plan until the next scheduled open

enrollment period.

2. If you are changing your  
(Please see Open, Page 6)

### Submissions

*StaffNews* publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

[agencynews@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:agencynews@cdcr.ca.gov)



# California State Employees Charitable Campaign Begins Oct. 3

The California State Employees Charitable Campaign kicks off today, so expect to hear from a key campaigner in your division or office in the next day or so!

The recent events in the Gulf States and the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina have highlighted the important work some charitable organizations perform in rebuilding lives.

The CDCR Campaign runs from Oct. 3 -- 14. After that date, your key campaigners will gather the forms to be audited and processed. This year, there are more than 100 employees at CDCR Headquarters, including parole headquarters and Region I who have pledged to either be a Division Coordinator, Key Campaigner or Auditor.

The California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC) - formerly known as the United California State Employees Campaign

(UCSEC) - was established in 1957 to provide a single charitable fund raising drive in the State community. The enabling regulations for the campaign are found in the California Administrative Code. The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, formerly known as the State Board of Control, provides oversight for the CSECC.

Although the CSECC is commonly referred to as if it were a single entity, there is no single "state" campaign. Rather, there are approximately 36 campaigns. Each one of these local campaigns produces its own separate campaign brochures, publicity materials, and campaign plans. However, this past year, United Way California Capital Region has led collaboration with eight other United Ways to give state employees a consistent level of customer service and cost. The collaboration has grown to 20 total regions, bringing a new level of

service to the State of California.

Within the five county region (Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer and Amador) covered by the local campaign, approximately 70,000 State employees are solicited through CSECC and provide nearly \$4.3 million annually toward a wide variety of essential community services. The donor population of CSECC includes state employees, officials and legislative employees. Efforts from local volunteers and the generosity of donors have made the Capital Region campaign among the most successful in the nation.

For more information, please visit the CSECC website at [www.csecc.org](http://www.csecc.org) where you can find a number of resources, including the 2005 Donor Resource Guide, which has 25-word statements for each charitable agency. It contains a wealth of information and contacts for various groups in your community toward which you can direct your donation.

## Party On, Wayne!

Spar Retires after 33 years with CYA



Longtime Youth Authority (now DJJ) Office of Research and Information Systems employee Wayne Spar (l) receives his "honorable discharge" certificate from DJJ Research Chief Rudy Haapanen after 33 years, 11 months service.

### Mark Your Calendars!

The annual Health and Wellness Fair will be held on Oct. 12, in the atrium of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at the 1515 S Street complex in Sacramento. The event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. We encourage you to attend this fun and informative event.

There will be more than 25 vendors participating in this event. Health educators will be available to provide valuable information on cardiac risk, stress reduction, ergonomics, fitness, health screenings, and fire safety. The Office of Employee Wellness is coordinating this event, in collaboration with the Office of Risk Management.

Questions should be directed to Monique Visentin at 916-323-2874.

## Katrina...*(From page one)*

and security has been acknowledged on the national level.

At the September meeting of the National Interstate Compact Commissioners in Phoenix, the Director recognized CDCR for its efforts in assisting law enforcement and correctional authorities in states affected by Hurricane Katrina.

CDCR compiled a list of probationers and parolees being supervised in the affected states under the Interstate Compact so that those individuals could be identified as belonging to California and arrangement for other supervision/transfers back to California could be made.

The National Director recognized the efforts of CA as an example of states taking the initiative to help those states affected by Katrina and encouraged other states to put together something similar information.

In response to the needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Prison Industry Authority has staged more than 100 pallets of clothing and shoes in its warehouse in Sacramento. The garments are part of PIA's existing inventories that have been transported from several PIA institutions from throughout the State.

The items are new and fully functional, but are no longer being ordered by current customers because of changes in clothing style, fabric, or color and are being made available to those in need. The transportation of the apparel is being coordinated by the California Office of Emergency Services.

CDCR headquarters employees conducted a Hurricane Katrina Bake

and Book sale on Sept. 14, and raised \$1,624 for the American Red Cross.

Throughout September, CDCR

withdrawals.

San Quentin State Prison inmates and staff contributed to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort all September. By mid-September, the inmates had pledged \$3,700. Some inmates handed over every last cent in their accounts. Another contribution came from a Sept. 7 blood drive sponsored by Blood Centers of the Pacific, during which staffers donated 56 pints of blood.

California State Prison, Corcoran conducted a food, clothing and supply drive in September. By mid-month, the facility had collected 13 pallets of goods. The institution participated in a newspaper

drive with the local paper that raised \$9,000.

The inmates at Kern Valley State Prison elected to donate items and contribute the items to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. By mid-September more than 300 T-shirts, 160 pairs of pants, and several hundred pairs of socks, sweat tops and bottoms had been gathered for donation.

Corcoran Substance Abuse Treatment Facility collected six pallets of food, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items by mid-September and was working with other institutions to coordinate transportation of items to the American Red Cross. The inmates had raised more than \$750 by mid-September.

Centinela State Prison inmates submitted trust account withdrawals for a preliminary mid-September total of \$3,086 for the American Red Cross.

Collection boxes for both cash donations and essential needs have

*(Please see Katrina, Page 8)*



*PIA employees continue to gather boxloads of materials and necessities for transport to the Gulf region.*

headquarters employees donated a number of personal need items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotions, tooth paste, tooth brushes, feminine hygiene products, underwear, baby food, diapers, bottles, baby wipes, baby food and non perishable food products to be delivered to Paul Blanco Capitol City Chevrolet on Florin and Franklin Blvd. The car dealership send several convoys of these personal items to those in need in devastated areas of the Gulf coast.

By mid-September, the Central California Women's Facility inmate population had donated \$601 to the American Red Cross, \$181 to the Salvation Army, and \$215 to the United Way. Staff efforts are ongoing, with clothing, personal necessities and cash being donated as well.

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison staff participated in fundraiser in September that resulted in collecting \$3,517 for the Katrina relief effort. In addition to staff donations, Facility B inmates donated \$944 via inmate trust

# LEIU Parole Sweep Operations Throughout Los Angeles County Net 17 in Eight Cities

Early in the morning on Sept. 14, agents from the California Department of Corrections Law Enforcement Unit, in conjunction with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies, conducted a major parolee sweep operation of throughout Los Angeles County and made 17 arrests.

Approximately 200 officers were involved in the operation which covered eight cities and two counties. The operation was concentrated in the Hawaiian Gardens area of Los Angeles which is the site of major gang problems, including the recent murder of a Deputy Sheriff.

The joint operation, led by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole agents and Fugitive Apprehension Teams, arrested the 17 parolees on

charges ranging from parole violations to narcotic and weapons charges.

In addition to the arrests, officers seized four firearms and the Department of Children and Family Services took five children into protective custody.

"This is a perfect example of how the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will use its law enforcement resources to coordinate and respond with other agencies throughout the state to deal with crime and make our communities safer," said Secretary **Roderick Q. Hickman**.

Under the recent reorganization of the Department of Corrections, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in July 2005, the Office of Correctional Safety was created. All investigative and enforcement operations are now consolidated under this office. This new office ensures that all

information is shared, analyzed and disseminated to other law enforcement agencies.

The Office of Correctional Safety has helped coordinate several more sweeps this past summer.

This is just the beginning of an active partnership to deal with the gang problems, especially in LA County," said **Walter Allen**, Assistant Secretary. "With the new Office of Correctional Safety we will continue to provide support to law enforcement agencies throughout the state."

## Wasco State Prison Staff Assists Local Students to "Get Back to School"

By Warden P L. Vasquez  
Wasco State Prison

Wasco State Prison-Reception Center staff wanted to ensure that local children would get off to a positive start this school year. As a result, the staff initiated the Keith McDermand Back to School Drive raising hundreds of dollars and as well as numerous donations

of school supplies for the students at Allensworth and Wasco Schools.

Grateful employees and excited school children welcomed Wasco prison staff as they delivered approximately 500 book bags/back packs and school

(Please see School, Page 8)



*Wasco Correctional Officer Keith McDermand's memory was alive and well at this year's Back to School Drive to assist students in need of critical school supplies.*

## Staff News

### The Electronic Edition

The *Staff News* is published monthly by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Office of Press and Communications.

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## CPCCA..(From page one)

also recognizes youths who have made significant strides in reforming their lives.

### 2005 Recipients

#### Victim Services Award:

**Helene Davis** of Oakland was recognized for her tireless work in sensitizing victimizers to the pain they cause their victims. After losing her oldest son in a senseless killing, Helen has shared her story with wards at Juvenile Justice Division facilities and is a founding member of Mothers Against Murder and Assault.

#### Distinguished Service Award:

Father **Greg Boyle** of Los Angeles, executive director of Jobs for a Future/Home Boys Industries, was feted for his long standing work with at-risk and gang-oriented youth. His program is an employment referral center that assists with economic development and is nationally recognized for assisting more than 1,000 people per month to redirect their lives.

#### Outstanding Achievement Awards:

Four young men and two young women from San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Los Angeles and Sacramento counties were recognized for their significant accomplishments in overcoming tremendous obstacles and excelling in careers, educational en-

deavors and social/athletic and family arenas.

These young people are attending colleges, including Washington State University, University of Southern California, Mission College, DeAnza and Compton Community College. In addition, they have shouldered family responsibilities and are involved in helping other at-risk youth. All of them have taken advantage of the opportunities provided to them while in the juvenile justice system, established goals and are well on their way to leading productive lives in California communities.

#### Parole Administrators of the Year:

**Robert Ambroselli** of Sacramento, the statewide expert in the *Valdivia v. Schwarzenegger* injunction, was recognized for his continued ability to provide leadership, his steadfast commitment and dedication to Parole's changing missions and goals. **Evelyn Lara-Lowe** of Fresno for her dedicated interest in the protection of the community and integration of parolees into the community and for her tireless work for parolees to have a voice in their own recovery through voluntary parolee programs.

#### Parole Unit Supervisor of the Year:

**James Breedlove** of Long Beach was recognized for his support of

youth and at-risk youth with educational opportunities and his collaborative efforts that have placed several students in institutions of higher learning with scholarships. **Rick Valencia** of Van Nuys was recognized for his work-ethic, demeanor and professionalism and for his ongoing training and investigative work. Roger Watkins of San Jose was recognized for overseeing high-risk sex offender agents and for developing positive relationships among community agencies and treatment providers.

#### Parole Agent of the Year:

**Gary Carnes** of Moreno Valley was recognized for his unselfish dedication and professionalism to an often-invisible job that ensures the safety of the public and the individuals under parole supervision.

The California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association (CPPCA) was established in 1913 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest state professional associations that provides California with dynamic and innovative leadership in corrections. The association is comprised of practitioners from all areas of the juvenile justice system--law enforcement, probation, parole, corrections, judiciary, social services and schools, as well as community members.

## OPEN..(From page two)

Medical coverage, please fill out the HBD-12 and HB-12A forms and submit it to your Personnel Office. Whenever a health change is requested...a HB-12A (Declaration of Health Coverage must accompany the HBD-12). Please request this form from your personnel liaison.

3. If you are adding your spouse

for the first time to your Health or Dental, please make sure you fill out the STD. 692, HBD-12 and attach a copy of your marriage certificate.

4. If you are canceling Flex-Elect cash or enrolling into Flex-Elect cash, and your spouse is also a state Eemployee, all documents need to be submitted as a package. Or at least copies of the spouse's documents

need to be submitted as a package.

5. If you are now flexing your health or dental and wish to start health or dental through the state, please fill out the STD. 701C form located in your Flex Elect manual to cancel your Flex-Elect cash option coverage first. You then need to fill out the STD. 692 and HBD-12 for

(Please see Open, Page 7)

# Prison Industry Authority Introduces Community Re-entry Project

The California Prison Industry Authority, in collaboration with the San Diego community, announced the kickoff of the "Community Re-entry Project," a new program designed to enhance the integration of ex-offenders into the local workforce.

PIA's partners in the project include the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Mental Health Systems Inc., National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, employers, and community and faith-based organizations. The project establishes an employment-centered network of services that is facilitated by a team of transition coordinators.

The primary goal of the project is to reduce recidivism by coordinating and enhancing services available in the San Diego community. By assisting ex-offenders to obtain services immediately upon release from custody, they can avoid situations that foster re-offending. The project is built upon the "best practice" of beginning the development of a re-entry pathway for the parolee prior to release.

The project will use a wrap-around case management model for client populations who need assistance with improving decision-making skills and are subject to "falling through the cracks" of the service delivery system. The wrap-around approach is client/family-centered, strength based, needs-driven, compre-

hensive, team-oriented, and requires individualized planning and services.

This re-entry model will begin with an assessment for each client that is prepared as early as nine months prior to release. That assessment packet will be given to one of the transitional coordinators, who will then provide seamless wrap-around services, by coordinating with community partners to maximize successful re-entry for each client. Clients will have received valuable pre-release services from PIA, and will discharge with assessment information.

MHS, which operates more than 100 mental health and alcohol and drug treatment programs in more than 70 geographical locations in 11 California counties, will provide coordination and provision of services and referrals to community-based organizations and faith-based organizations. MHS will also provide oversight and training of staff.

PIA and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department will provide in-custody training and job-readiness services and ensure program staff access to clients in custody. Parole and probation agencies will coordinate services with program staff to ensure mutual goals are met and program services do not overlap. Community-based organizations will provide alcohol, drug, mental health, housing, education, and other support services to clients.

NASSCO, the only major ship construction yard on the West Coast is an example of an employer benefiting from the job training that is provided by PIA. NASSCO employs more than 4,000 staff and has been a major employer of trained ex-offenders for many years.

The next phase of the Community Re-entry Project will be a special conference titled, "San Diego County's Undiscovered Labor Resource," which is specifically designed for San Diego employers and will feature the benefits to employers of hiring ex-offenders. The free conference is scheduled for Oct. 20, in San Diego. The conference is endorsed by local elected officials, businesses and community organizations. For more information visit: <http://www.cce.csus.edu/cts/PIA/index.asp>

"There is a renewed focus in California on assisting inmates with the re-entry process. I am enthused about the rollout of the Community Reentry Project in San Diego because it provides new opportunities for our inmates to succeed on the outside," said **Matt Powers**, PIA General Manager. "The Prison Industry Authority plans to replicate this same model in other regions in California. This is really an investment in public safety, because employed parolees mean safer communities."

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## OPEN..(From page six)

new insurance. Please remember, if you are adding on your spouse please provide a copy of the marriage certificate.

More information regarding pre-

mium increases may be accessed on Cal-PERS website. Listed below is the website address and CalPERS telephone number. These are wonderful resources that may be used in

helping you make important decisions regarding health plans. Website: [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) and phone number 1-888-Cal-Pers or 1-888-225-

## KATRINA...(From page seven)

been placed throughout the institution. The non-monetary donations will be sent for distribution to shelters. Staff have been organizing a community rummage sale in conjunction with Calipatria State Prison. The proceeds will be sent to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation "Katrina Fund."

Wasco State Prison staff and inmates raised \$1,533 and some 2,000 pounds of blankets, non-perishable food items, clothing, baby wipes, baby

supplies, and toiletry items that will be dropped off with appropriate donation centers for transport to the Gulf Coast area.

The Correctional Chicano Workers Association and staff at Valley State Prison for Women hosted a food fundraiser during September that resulted in \$1,705 for the Katrina relief effort. Staff also donated six pallets (4 ft by 4 ft boxes) of clothing along with hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, dia-

pers, and baby food. VSPW inmates also collected \$3,001 for the Katrina relief effort via inmate trust withdrawals.

As of Sept 22, 79 inmates housed at the California Rehabilitation Center voluntarily donated \$1,175 to the American Red Cross.

On Oct. 4, Sierra Conservation Center plans to conduct a blood drive with Delta Blood Bank. \$10 will be donated by the blood bank for every donation.

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## SCHOOL...(From page five)

supplies to Allensworth School on Aug. 29 and Wasco School District on Sept. 13.

Now an annual tradition, Wasco Prison staff recognizes that back-to-school supplies remain a considerable expense for families; especially low-income families. According to obser-

vations by some staff who worked that day, they felt that a well-prepared child from a low income household had a better chance at success and some of the basic opportunities that children who want for nothing -- take for granted.

This year's event was in honor of

Wasco Correctional Officer **Keith McDermand**, who passed away as a result of an accident. C.O. McDermand was very involved in the various school projects sponsored by the Wasco prison employees. Keith's wife, **Vickie McDermand**, and their stepdaughter Cassi accom-

panied staff during the Allensworth distribution. It was an emotional day for the family members, as they witnessed the commitment by friends and co-workers to keep CO McDermand's commitment alive to these deserving children.



*In late August, four CDCR employees were awarded for their quick thinking and bravery on the job at the 25th Governor's Employee Safety Awards. Recipients included Kathy Caster and Audrey Swinney, Pelican Bay State Prison, Nancy Clark, Central California Women's Facility, and Richard Clemens, Administrative Services Division, at CDCR headquarters, Sacramento. Standing with the recipients is Adult Operation Deputy Director Suzanne Hubbard (second from left), and CDCR Health and Safety Assistant Deputy Director Karen Wong (third from right).*